Criteria of receiving funds under Backward States Grant Fund

2854. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for receiving funds under the Backward States Grant Fund;

(b) how much money is estimated to be released under this fund during 2005-06; and

(c) the details of the States that have approached Central Government for receiving funds under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) A backward Districts/Areas Fund, with a provision of Rs. 5000 crore, has been included as a Central assistance to States Plan Scheme in budget 2005-06. The Scheme, with criteria for its allocation, is still to be formulated.

Capital investment in Textile Sector

2855. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has made a statement that the Textile sector needs Rs. 2,700 crore capital investment to enable it to take on the evolving market opportunities under the seamless global textile trade;

(b) if so, what is the action plan of Government to help the Textile industry to improve their economy;

(c) whether Government propose to give more fiscal incentives to textile cluster based captive power units to bring down their cost of power; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Sir, Investment of Rs. 30,000 crore has been estimated in the textile sector in 2005-06, as indicated in the Budget Speech for 2005-06.